

IBSAT 2026 Syllabus: Complete Section-Wise Topics, Exam Pattern & Preparation Guide

IBSAT Syllabus 2026: The ICFAI Business School Aptitude Test (IBSAT) is the official gateway to MBA/PGPM admission at IBS Hyderabad and eight other IBS campuses across India. With [IBSAT 2026 exam](#) expected to be conducted in the last week of December 2026, serious aspirants should start preparation around the IBSAT 2026 Syllabus. Based on the IBSAT 2025 Information Bulletin and IBSAT syllabus 2026 official website, the IBSAT 2026 Syllabus is expected to comprise four sections: Verbal Ability, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Aptitude, and Data Adequacy & Data Interpretation. Total number of questions is 140 questions to be solved in 2 hours. There is no negative marking and no sectional time limits, which makes IBSAT one of the more candidate-friendly [MBA entrance exams in India](#). This in-depth guide breaks down the IBSAT Syllabus 2026 section-by-section, lists the exact topics seen in the official IBS model paper, and explains the question types you will face.

IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern at a Glance

Before getting into the syllabus, it is important to understand the structure of the test. The IBSAT 2026 exam pattern is expected to follow the [IBSAT 2025 pattern](#) as per the official IBS bulletin.

Key features of the IBSAT 2026 exam pattern (expected, based on IBSAT 2025):

- **Test Duration:** 2 hours (120 minutes)
- **Mode:** Computer-Based Test (CBT), conducted over two days
- **Negative Marking:** None
- **Sectional Time Limits:** None — candidates can allocate time freely across sections
- **Question Format:** Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) with five answer options each (as seen in the official IBSAT 2024 Model Paper)
- **Medium:** English

The absence of negative marking and sectional time pressure makes the IBSAT a fundamentally different test from CAT or XAT. IBSAT exam strategy is less about elimination and more about maximising attempts within 120 minutes.

IBSAT Exam Pattern 2026

Exam Section	Number of Questions	Maximum Marks
Verbal Ability	50	50
Reading Comprehension	30	30

Quantitative Aptitude	30	30
Data Adequacy & Data Interpretation	30	30
Total	140	140

IBSAT 2026 Syllabus: Verbal Ability (50 Questions)

Verbal Ability is the largest section in IBSAT and carries the highest weightage. This section is structured around following sub-sections:

- 1. Synonyms (Questions 1–5):** Candidates are given a word followed by five options and must choose the closest synonym. Words tested in the model paper include *Incipient, Abrogate, Caducity, Alacrity, Frolic* — indicating that IBSAT expects strong advanced-level vocabulary.
- 2. Antonyms (Questions 6–10):** A similar five-option format, testing antonyms of words like *Gaiety, Mawkish, Covenant, Skirt, Exculpate*.
- 3. Analogies (Questions 11–15):** Word-pair relationships, e.g., *Missile : Trajectory :: Satellite : ?* Candidates must identify the underlying relationship.
- 4. Fill in the Blanks (Questions 16–20):** Double-blank sentences testing contextual vocabulary and meaning.
- 5. Spotting Errors (Questions 21–25):** Sentences divided into four parts where the candidate identifies which part contains an error.
- 6. Sentence Improvement (Questions 26–30):** A part of the sentence is underlined and the candidate must choose the best replacement.
- 7. Para-jumbles (Questions 31–35):** Four sentences (P, Q, R, S) need to be arranged in the most logical, coherent sequence.
- 8. One-Word Substitution (Questions 36–40):** Identify the single word that best replaces a given phrase (e.g., "government by the populace or mob rule" → Ochlocracy).
- 9. Idioms and Phrases (Questions 41–50):** Choose the option that best expresses the meaning of the given idiom/phrase.

Key Verbal Ability topics for IBSAT 2026 preparation: Vocabulary (advanced level), Grammar (subject-verb agreement, tenses, prepositions, articles), Sentence construction, Para-jumbles, Idioms, One-word substitutions, and Analogies.

IBSAT 2026 Syllabus: Reading Comprehension (30 Questions)

The Reading Comprehension section in IBSAT 2026 is expected to feature **four to five long passages** followed by 6–8 questions per passage. Topics in the IBSAT 2024 model paper drew from business, economics, science, philosophy, and current affairs.

Question types typically asked:

- Main idea / central theme of the passage
- Author's tone, attitude, or purpose
- Inference-based questions
- Vocabulary-in-context (meaning of a word as used in the passage)
- True/False statements based on passage content
- Title selection for the passage

Preparation tip: Build reading stamina by reading editorials from *The Hindu*, *Business Standard*, *Mint*, *The Economist* and *Aeon* daily. RC accounts for nearly 22% of total questions and is the single highest-ROI sub-area for non-engineering candidates.

IBSAT 2026 Syllabus: Quantitative Aptitude (30 Questions)

The Quantitative Aptitude section in IBSAT 2026 will test standard MBA-entrance maths topics. The IBSAT Past Papers reveals a balanced spread across the following areas:

1. Arithmetic (highest weightage):

- Percentages, Profit & Loss, Discount
- Ratio & Proportion
- Time, Speed and Distance (including boats & streams)
- Time & Work
- Simple Interest and Compound Interest
- Mixtures and Alligations

2. Number System & Number Theory:

- LCM, HCF, Divisibility rules
- Remainders, Prime numbers, Factors
- Consecutive integers, Properties of numbers

3. Algebra:

- Linear and Quadratic equations
- Inequalities
- Sequences and Series (AP, GP, Continued Proportion)

- Logarithms

4. Geometry & Mensuration:

- Tangents, Secants, Properties of circles
- Triangles (similarity, congruence, area)
- Quadrilaterals, Polygons
- Area, Perimeter, Volume of 2D and 3D figures

5. Modern Maths:

- Permutations & Combinations (e.g., word-arrangement problems)
- Probability
- Set Theory (Venn diagrams, two-set and three-set problems)

6. Trigonometry (limited weightage):

- Heights and Distances, Angles of elevation/depression

IBSAT 2026 Syllabus: Data Adequacy & Data Interpretation (30 Questions)

This is the most distinctive section of IBSAT 2026 and is often under-prepared by candidates. It has two clear sub-parts:

A. Data Adequacy / Data Sufficiency (approximately 15 questions):

You are given a question followed by two statements. You must decide whether:

- Statement (1) alone is sufficient
- Statement (2) alone is sufficient
- Both statements together are needed
- Either alone is sufficient
- Neither is sufficient

Topics tested in the IBSAT model papers include age-ratio puzzles, geometric progressions, triangle properties, time-and-work, ratios and proportions, percentages, and number properties. The Data Sufficiency format is similar to what appears in CAT and GMAT but with a five-option answer structure unique to IBSAT.

B. Data Interpretation (approximately 15 questions):

DI sets in IBSAT 2026 are expected to feature:

- **Tables:** Sales, production, demographic data

- **Pie Charts:** Market share, percentage distributions (e.g., the cricket-team success-rate set in the 2024 model paper)
- **Bar Graphs:** Yearly investments, year-on-year comparisons
- **Line Graphs:** Trend analysis
- **Caselets:** Text-based data sets

DI questions in IBSAT typically test percentage change, averages, ratios, and approximation skills. Sets of 5 questions are standard.

IBSAT 2026 Question Format and Marking Scheme

A unique feature of IBSAT is its **five-option MCQ format**, which are labelled (a), (b), (c), (d), (e). With no negative marking, the optimal strategy is to attempt every question, even if it involves educated guessing. A blind guess statistically gives a 20% chance of being correct, with zero downside.

IBSAT Exam Syllabus 2026 PDF Download

Download the **IBSAT Syllabus PDF** to get a complete understanding of the latest exam structure before you begin your preparation. The PDF contains detailed information on the exam syllabus and pattern, section-wise question distribution, marking scheme, exam duration, and other important preparation insights. Whether you are starting your preparation or revising your strategy, this IBSAT Exam Syllabus PDF Download serves as a quick and reliable reference that you can save for offline access and use throughout your IBSAT 2026 preparation. Click on the link below for IBSAT 2026 Exam Syllabus PDF Download.

How to Prepare for the IBSAT Syllabus 2026

For an IBSAT exam expected in late December 2026, candidates should begin serious preparation in three-phases:

Phase 1: Foundation: Build conceptual clarity in Quant fundamentals (NCERT Class 8–10 maths), basic grammar, and start a daily vocabulary habit using *Word Power Made Easy* by Norman Lewis and the *Barron's GRE Wordlist*. Read one editorial daily.

Phase 2: Sectional Practice: Take topic-wise sectional tests. Solve at least two RC passages and one DI set every single day. Master Data Sufficiency — most candidates ignore this and lose 15 easy marks.

Phase 3: Mock-Driven Refinement: Take at least 8–10 full-length IBSAT mocks. Free IBSAT mock tests are available on the official IBS website, and MBAUniverse.com. Check details below.

CAT, XAT, NMAT and SNAP aspirants enjoy a natural overlap of 70%+ in Quant and Verbal preparation, making IBSAT a low-marginal-effort addition to your test portfolio. Read complete guide on IBSAT 2026 exam preparation.

IBSAT 2026 Preparation Resources

Preparing for IBSAT 2026 requires more than just understanding the exam syllabus. To complete your preparation, explore our comprehensive guides from links below covering the latest exam schedule, syllabus, registration process, preparation strategy, mock tests, and previous year question papers. These resources will help you stay updated, strengthen your concepts, and maximize your chances of scoring well in IBSAT 2026.

- [IBSAT Exam Dates 2026](#): Check the complete schedule, including registration, admit card, exam, result, and selection process.
- [IBSAT Syllabus 2026](#): Explore the latest section-wise syllabus and important topics for all four sections.
- [IBSAT Registration 2026](#): Learn about eligibility, application process, fees, documents required, and important deadlines.
- [IBSAT Preparation 2026](#): Access expert preparation strategies, study plans, recommended books, and section-wise tips.
- [IBSAT Mock Tests 2026](#): Practice full-length mock tests to improve speed, accuracy, and time management.
- [IBSAT Previous Year Question Papers](#): Solve previous papers to understand question patterns, topic-wise weightage, and exam difficulty.

Summary

Based on the information bulletin and IBSAT syllabus 2026 official website, the IBSAT Syllabus 2026 is expected to comprise of four sections: **Verbal Ability, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Aptitude, and Data Adequacy & Data Interpretation**. Total number of questions is **140 questions to be solved in 2 hours**. There is **no negative marking** and no sectional time limits. Read above article on IBSAT 2026 Syllabus for more details. Also read complete [IBSAT 2026 exam](#) guide for complete details.